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Luton Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

of

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the

YEAR 1965



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Luton Rural District Council

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Chief Public Health Inspector

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Medical Officer's Annual Report, 1965

Montpelier House,
Dunstable.
21st June, 1966.

To the Chairman and Councillors of
the Rural District of Luton.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Health Report for 1965.

Deaths. 245 deaths were registered during the year, of which 47 were due to cancer. It is very sad that over a quarter of the cancer deaths were due to cancer of the lung, a condition that is well known can be, to a large extent, affected by smoking cigarettes.

Infectious Diseases. As is usual, measles was by far the commonest infection and it is hoped that before many years have passed that this disease will be eradicated by modern methods of immunisation.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. A. A. PARGETER,

Medical Officer of Health,
Luton Rural District.

Statistics and Social Conditions

Vital Statistics

Area of District (in acres).....	46,204
Population: Registrar-General's Estimated Home Population for 1965	34,320
Number of inhabited houses—according to Rate Books.....	10,266
Rateable Value as at 31st December, 1965.....	£1,290,285
Net produce of a penny rate for the year ended 31st March, 1965	£4,980
Number of new houses erected (during year ended 31st December 1965):	
(a) Council	62
(b) Private	177

Live Births :

Legitimate ...
Illegitimate

Birth Rate per 1,000 of population ...

Total	M.	F.
777	404	373
738	383	355
39	21	18
Crude Rate	22.6	
Adjusted Rate	18.8	

Still Births :

Legitimate ...
Illegitimate

Rate per 1,000 (live and still births) ...
Rate per 1,000 of population ...

Total	M.	F.
14	6	8
13	6	7
1	—	1
	17.7	
	0.4	

Total Live and Still Births:

Legitimate
Illegitimate

Total	M.	F.
751	389	362
40	21	19
791	410	381

Deaths of Infants

IFANTS DEATHS (under one year of age)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	6	6	12
Illegitimate	—	2	2
Total	6	8	14

Rate per 1,000 Live Births		
Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate
18.0	15.4	9.6

INFANT DEATHS (under four weeks of age)

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Total	3	5	8

Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate
10.3	9.0	1.3

INFANT DEATHS (under one week of age)

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 Live Births		
				Total	Legitimate	Illegitimate
Legitimate	3	3	6			
Illegitimate	—	1	1			
Total	3	4	7	9.0	7.7	1.3

Still Births and Deaths under one week of age

Still Births	...	...	...	14
Deaths	...	...	...	7
				<u>21</u>

Combined rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births ... 26.5

Illegitimate Live Births = 5% of total live births.

Maternal Deaths ... Nil

Deaths

Male	...	...	136
Female	...	...	109
Total	...	...	<u>245</u>

Death Rates

All causes: Crude	...	7.1
Adjusted	...	10.3
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	—
Whooping Cough	...	—
Diphtheria	...	—
Tuberculosis	...	—
Influenza	...	—
Smallpox	...	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	—
Pneumonia	...	0.3
All causes under 1 year of age	...	0.4

Notifications (Corrected)

Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	—
Meningococcal Infection	...	—
Scarlet Fever	...	0.4
Whooping Cough	...	0.03
Diphtheria	...	—
Erysipelas	...	0.03
Smallpox	...	—
Measles	...	3.9
Pneumonia	...	0.03
Acute Poliomyelitis: Paralytic	...	—
Non-Paralytic	...	—
Food Poisoning	...	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	0.03
Dysentery	...	0.59

POPULATION

The population, as estimated by the Registrar General, for 1965 was 34,320 and as will be seen from the undermentioned table, there has been a total increase of 13,030 in the last ten years.

Population 1956 — 1965

Year	Population	Increase or decrease over previous year	Natural Increase
1956	22,530	1,840	9.8
1957	23,500	970	12.2
1958	24,570	1,070	10.2
1959	26,800	2,230	13.6
1960	30,010	3,210	14.8
1961	37,540	7,530	13.9
1962	41,090	3,550	13.9
1963	42,570	1,480	8.5
1964	33,580	8,990 (decrease)	12.2
1965	34,320	740	8.5

“ Natural Increase ” shows the difference between the birth and death rates.

Birth Rate

Birth Rates between different areas cannot be compared unless allowance is made for the number of women residents of child bearing age.

The Registrar-General supplies a comparability factor to all areas so that an adjusted birth rate can be made. The ‘factor’ for this district is 0.83.

The birth rate for 1965 was 18.8 after multiplying the ‘crude birth rate’ of 22.6 by the ‘comparability factor’.

The total number of live births was 777.

Still Births

The number of still births was 14 and the still birth rate 0.4 per 1,000 population. The corresponding rate for 1,000 total live and still births was 17.7.

Death Rate

The uncorrected death rate was 7.1 as compared with 7.0 for the previous year. To make allowances for age and sex constitution the Registrar-General has allowed correction of this figure by the comparability figure of 1.43, by which a corrected death rate of 10.15 is obtained.

Cancer of the stomach caused four deaths, compared with five last year, and cancer of the lung (bronchus) caused twelve deaths, the same as in the previous year.

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths below 55 years of age	25	22	47
Deaths over 75 years of age	45	53	98

Maternal Mortality

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	—	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	2	12
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	5	5
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	15	10	25
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	2	2
16. Diabetes	1	—	1
17. Vascular lesion of nervous system	13	17	30
18. Coronary disease, angina	28	27	55
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
20. Other heart disease	11	11	22
21. Other circulatory disease	4	1	5
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	5	5	10
24. Bronchitis	20	1	21
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	—	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	3	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	3	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	2	5	7
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	9	21
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	3	7
34. All other accidents	1	—	1
35. Suicide	1	2	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
All Causes	136	109	245

Infant Mortality

The total number of infant deaths was 14, of which 6 were male and 8 female, giving an infant mortality rate of 18.0 per 1,000 births over the year. 5 infant deaths were due to prematurity, 1 to heart disease, 3 to broncho-pneumonia, 1 to rhesus incompatibility 2 to congenital malformations, and 2 to tracheo-bronchitis.

The number of neo-natal deaths, or those occurring under one month of age, was 8, corresponding to a rate of 10.6 per 1,000 live births.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

The following table shows in summary form the number of infectious diseases notified during the year:—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified</i>
Scarlet Fever	14
Whooping Cough	1
Measles	308
Meningococcal Infection	—
Dysentery	17
Food Poisoning	—
Jaundice	1
Erysipelas	2
Pneumonia	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1956-1965

Year	LIVE BIRTHS			STILL BIRTHS			DEATHS			INFANT DEATHS			MATERNAL DEATHS			
	Estimated Population	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	No.	Rate per 1,000 est. population	No.	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 12 months	Total	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number			Rate per 1,000 total births	
												Sepsis	Other	Total		
1956	22,530	409	18.2	18	42.2	189	8.4	8	2	10	24.1	—	—	—	—	
1957	23,500	495	21.1	9	17.9	209	8.9	8	3	11	22.2	—	—	—	—	
1958	24,570	537	20.8	7	12.9	220	10.6	9	2	11	20.2	—	—	—	—	
1959	26,800	677	23.5	18	25.9	218	10.0	10	2	12	17.7	—	—	—	—	
1960	30,010	833	25.3	14	16.5	246	10.5	16	6	22	26.4	—	2	2	2.4	
1961	37,540	973	22.3	10	10.1	216	8.4	17	4	21	21.6	—	—	—	—	
1962	41,090	1,149	20.7	18	15.4	270	9.8	20	9	29	25.2	—	—	—	—	
1963	42,570	1,050	19.5	21	15.0	313	11.0	12	6	18	16.8	—	—	—	—	
1964	33,580	902	22.2	6	6.6	236	10.5	8	2	10	11.1	—	1	1	1.1	
1965	34,320	777	18.8	14	17.7	245	10.3	8	6	14	18.0	—	—	—	—	

Tuberculosis

The following table shows the number of new cases: —

			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 5 years	..		—	—	—	—
5—14 years	.		—	—	—	—
15—24 years	...	..	—	—	—	—
25—44 years	...		—	—	—	—
45—64 years	...		2	2	—	1
65 years and over	...	...	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	...	...	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	...	2	2	—	1

Cases notified during:—								Total
1960	—	...	...	8	4	2	3	17
1961	...	...	...	9	4	—	1	14
1962	...	...	...	8	2	1	—	11
1963	...	...	...	4	1	—	2	7
1964	...	...	...	4	4	1	2	11
1965	...	...	...	2	2	—	1	5

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 — SECTION 47

Persons in need of care and attention

This section provides for the necessary care and attention of persons who

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease, or, being aged and infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

It was not necessary to take steps for compulsory removal of any persons during the year.

Chief Public Health Inspector's Annual Report 1965

1. WATER SUPPLY

Public Mains Water

Samples have been obtained at regular intervals and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination.

Number of samples examined 154

The results invariably indicated a high standard of purity and any evidence of pollution traced to tap contamination.

Private Water Supplies

27 samples were obtained from various supplies. Those taken from the wells at Oakwell Park, Suncote Lodge and Suncote Cottage were found to be unsatisfactory on bacteriological examination. Various factors accounted for the pollution and the owners of the premises concerned were advised accordingly.

Discolouration of Water

During the year the number of complaints showed a marked reduction on previous years. Streatley Village was the only locality in which this problem arose.

2. SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

By the end of the year most of the dwellings in the village of Sundon had been connected to the public sewer which became available for use towards the end of 1964. The public sewer laid in the village of Chalton was ready early in the year and the connection of dwellings thereto has since proceeded at a satisfactory rate. The only houses not likely to be connected to the sewers in the above villages are those which are the subject of demolition orders or will be in the near future.

The following villages within the rural district have the advantage of a public sewer service:—

Barton, Caddington, Slip End, Tebworth, Eaton Bray (apart from The Rye area), Heath and Reach, Houghton Regis, Hyde (East), Kensworth, Sundon, Toddington and Chalton. The villages of Eggington and Stanbridge are partially sewered.

Small groups of Council houses in the parishes of Billington, Hockliffe, Studham and Totternhoe are served by private sewers.

When the last of the Council's priority schemes for sewer installation in various parishes was prepared in September 1958, it was envisaged that by the end of 1965 the service would be available in every village. Many unforeseen difficulties, delays and frustrations have been encountered and a number of schemes are still outstanding.

The villages which have suffered particularly in this respect are:—

Totternhoe, Studham, Tilsworth, and hardly to a lesser degree, Billington, parts of Eggington and Stanbridge, Hockliffe, Streatley, Wingfield and Whipsnade.

By the end of 1970 it is ardently hoped that most of these installations will have been completed.

The improved sanitary circumstances obtaining in the sewered areas only go to stress the general benefits of this amenity and emphasise the urgent need for such schemes in the remainder of the district.

Cesspool Emptying

This service is administered by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

The Council's sewerage schemes are still awaiting a starting date and no relief has been given to the cesspool emptying service this year.

In spite of the stringent Green Belt policy of planning, some development is taking place in those areas where main drainage is not yet available, thus imposing a further strain on this service.

The difficulty of finding suitable sites for disposal, especially in the western section of the district, has not been overcome and it is unlikely to be solved until the new sewage works are provided with facilities for dealing with cesspool contents.

3. RIVERS, STREAMS, PONDS, DITCHES AND WATERCOURSES

The complaints received concerning pollution are usually in inverse proportion to the amount of public sewer becoming available for use. When only effectually treated drainage and sewage discharges therein they will return to their natural and intended function of draining the surrounding area of land and storm water.

The increasing irresponsible and unauthorised dumping of rubbish in ponds and ditches is to be deplored. Ditches particularly appear to be a favourite site for the dumping of old mattresses and disused cars.

4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The conversion of earth and pail closets into water closets in the newly sewered areas has proceeded at a satisfactory rate. Owners have co-operated and it has not been found necessary to resort to statutory action.

Conversions have not been carried out at dwellings which are the subject of demolition orders.

The Council's own houses are being modernised progressively and the availability of a public sewer expedites these conversions and improvements.

5. REFUSE COLLECTION

This service is administered by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

During the past year the service has been fully maintained and a regular weekly collection in all areas of the rural district has been provided.

Difficulties in attracting labour for this service still arise but the Task Incentive Bonus Scheme enables the Council to retain a nucleus of labour.

The daily collection of refuse from the Motorway Service Area was commenced during the year and a special type of vehicle was purchased to deal with the large containers used for this collection.

Towards the end of the year the Council's new refuse tip at Bidwell was brought into operation and refuse from all areas is now deposited in this tip.

6. PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a numerical summary of the inspections, re-inspections, investigations, visits, interviews, etc. carried out during the year:—

ANIMALS

Animal Boarding Establishments	...	...	...	19
Riding Stables	...	...	...	3

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION	...	...	...	122
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FACTORIES

Mechanical	...	...	...	...	21
Building Sites	...	...	...	...	4

FOOD

Bakchouses	...	...	...	...	6
Catering Premises	...	...	...	...	52
Food complaints and investigations	...	...	...	...	35
Licensed Premises and Clubs	...	...	...	...	33
Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	290
Mobile Shops	...	...	...	...	32
Retail Food Shops	...	...	...	...	41
Ice-Cream	...	...	...	...	9

HEALTH EDUCATION	...	...	...	...	4
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HOUSING

Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	237
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	50
Other visits	...	...	...	...	170

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Investigations	...	...	...	...	71
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	1
Swabs and Specimens	...	...	...	...	143

NUISANCES

Premises	...	...	...	...	...	281
Animals	...	...	...	...	...	41
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	3
Noise Abatement	...	...	...	...	...	44
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	144
Pests	...	...	...	...	...	50
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	...	...	101

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

General Inspections	...	...	...	...	77
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	79
Accident Investigations	...	...	...	...	13

PETROLEUM

Routine Inspections	...	...	...	...	59
New Installations	...	...	...	...	82

SAMPLING

Ice-Cream	...	...	...	...	3
Milk	...	...	...	...	21
Water	...	...	...	...	149

SANITATION

Ditches and Watercourses	...	...	...	...	54
Refuse Accumulations	...	...	...	...	125
Sewerage and Drainage	...	...	...	...	289
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	26

SPECIAL PREMISES

Caravans	...	...	...	...	246
Halls	...	...	...	...	2
Schools	...	...	...	...	3
Scrap Metal Dealers	...	...	...	...	9
Slaughterhouses and Knackers Yards	...	...	...	...	1

Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	10
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WELFARE

Welfare	...	...	...	...	16
National Assistance Act	...	...	...	...	3

Total	3,274
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7. ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES

One hundred and sixteen Nuisances were abated during the year as a result of informal action.

The rate at which Nuisances are abated is generally satisfactory with the exception of circumstances involving repairs to premises. Owners oft-times meet with some difficulty in having repairs dealt with urgently. There appears to be a shortage of builders who are in a position to attend to defects and disrepair.

The type of Nuisance dealt with varies considerably and includes the improper disposal of waste and rubbish, improper keeping of animals, overflowing drainage, flooding of gardens, disrepair and defects to premises, pollution of ditches and mud or dust on roadways.

Public Health Act 1936—Section 93.

Statutory Notices requiring the abatement of Nuisances arising on a caravan site at 20 Wellhead Road, Totternhoe, were served on two persons living thereon. The Nuisances were subsequently abated.

The Litter Act 1958

I have already referred to one aspect of the irresponsible dumping of rubbish and waste under Paragraph 3. One has only to traverse the Dunstable Downs following a Bank Holiday to realise how little regard people have for the spirit of this Act.

The manner in which rubbish and waste is being “dumped” at the entrances to our greenways, bridleways and many other pleasant public ways and places is appalling. It is reasonable to assume that there are many persons who have the impression that verges and roadside ditches are available primarily for the reception of waste material, including disused cars, mattresses, old bikes, prams, disused furniture and general domestic waste. The development of neighbouring towns has resulted in less space being available within those areas for this purpose and the irresponsible persons guilty of these offences move to the outskirts of the towns and into the rural areas, particularly the places referred to above.

It is quite evident that much of this material is dumped by types of scrap collectors who retain the valuable material and dump the worthless scrap overnight.

Noise Abatement Act 1960

Complaints of noise have been few, the chief source being that arising from barking guard dogs at the various vehicle storage compounds in the village of Slip End. The Management have co-operated in taking such steps as they have been advised upon or are necessary to prevent or otherwise limit the source of disturbance.

The other major complaint concerned noise arising from the use of five heavy excavators working at the Rugby Portland Cement Quarry, Kensworth. The fact that these machines worked day and night intensified the Nuisance. Steps were taken subsequently to remedy the noise caused by the buckets attached to these vehicles and to muffle as far as practicable other sources of noise.

8. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Emission of Dust

The Public Analysts’ Reports are summarized as follows:—

Location of Deposit Gauge	Average Monthly Deposited Matter Tons per square mile	
	1965	1964
Houghton Regis—Cemetery Road	30.17	29.78
Sundon	26.80	26.80
Chalton	20.53	22.54

Observations

Houghton Regis

Observations taken at various points of “vantage” in Houghton Regis generally confirmed that low level dust was the main source of Nuisance. However, a Nuisance from high level dust, which invariably affects a greater number of persons and properties, recurred at far too frequent intervals and during the year it was not uncommon to have owners of cars presenting their vehicles at the office and complaining of the numerous “blobs” which had fallen on the car either overnight or in some instances in the day time. The “blobs” were the result of either a breakdown or the inefficient operation of the precipitators.

Both the Management and the Alkali Inspector were kept informed of my own observations and complaints from residents. The Alkali Inspector expressed the opinion on more than one occasion that improved “housekeeping” within the works should result in a general improvement, and this matter he constantly pursued with the Management.

Sundon and Chalton

The summary figures for Sundon indicated that at least there was no worsening of conditions during the year. At Chalton the increase was slight and in my opinion that was probably due to the dust arising from the installation of the sewer and works of connection thereto. However, the total deposit for these villages, bearing in mind their distance from the cement works, is much too high and this was frequently emphasised to both Management and the Alkali Inspector. Complaints arising in the village of Sundon confirmed this. The installation of electrical precipitation a few years ago should have produced much better figures.

Barton Lime Works

Observations proved that excessive dust was being emitted from the chalk crushing plant and various experiments were resorted to by the Management with a view to limiting or abating this Nuisance.

Smoke and Dust Nuisances in other Parishes

Caddington

A Nuisance arising from the burning of industrial waste at Dunstable Road was finally abated early in the year following Court Proceedings under the Clean Air Act 1956, the defendant having pleaded guilty to the offence.

The Contractor involved proceeded to dispose of industrial waste in the parish of Kensworth and the Council's Planning Committee took the appropriate statutory action to deal with this.

Complaints were received regarding the emission of black smuts from the Empire Rubber Company and Manor Garage, and abatement action was taken which appears to have been effectual.

Heath and Reach

A Nuisance from the emission of sand dust from the Bedford Silica Sand Mines recurred on occasions during the year. The sources of the trouble were identified and various improvements carried out with a view to effecting abatement.

The District Alkali Inspector, Doctor Grant, and his Deputy, Mr. Pinder, offered invaluable information and assistance in dealing with Nuisances arising in connection with Sand and Lime Works, despite the fact that these processes are not scheduled under the Alkali Acts. The Council appreciate the co-operation of these officers who specialize in the control of atmospheric pollution.

9. MOVABLE DWELLINGS

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960

The following summary indicates the position with respect to the number of caravan sites and caravans stationed thereon at the end of 1965, as compared with that obtaining when the Act came into operation:—

Licensed Sites	1960/1962			1965		
	No. of Sites	No. of Caravans		No. of Sites	No. of Caravans	
		Permanent	Holiday		Permanent	Holiday
Holding 1 caravan	37	37	—	18	18	—
2 to 6 caravans	12	37	—	8	22	—
More than 6 but less than 50	8	178	56	11	232	56
More than 50 but less than 100	2	138	—	2	138	—
More than 100	2	213	15	2	211	7
TOTALS:	61	603	71	41	621	63

In addition to the total shown above, the 60 caravans stationed on the Council's Site at Hockliffe have to be added. Sites occupied by Local Authorities in whose area the land is situated are exempt from licensing, hence the reason for not including this number in the columns above.

The site at the London Gliding Club provides for approximately 30 caravans. The land was formerly used for about 15-20 caravans. An application for planning permission and a site licence has been submitted to cover 30 caravans for holiday use.

The reduction in the number of single caravan sites has been largely the result of voluntary removal on the part of the owner, as in many instances the use of a caravan was required for temporary purposes only. In some cases, however, the sites have been cleared subsequent to procedure either under the Caravans and Control of Development Act 1960, the Housing Act 1957 or the Public Health Act 1936.

The provision of a caravan site by the Council has facilitated the clearance of sites where planning enforcement action had been taken and of several of the smaller licensed sites, such as hold not more than 3 caravans.

Since the 1960 Act came into operation, 125 caravans have been cleared from various sites subsequent to informal or statutory action with respect to the provision of Model conditions or planning procedure.

There are a number of caravans stationed in various parts of the district which are exempt from licensing, these include:—

- (i) Caravans used incidental to the use of dwelling houses (usually members of the same family).
- (ii) Caravans used in certain types of agriculture and forestry.
- (iii) Caravans used on building and engineering sites.
- (iv) A few caravans on sites occupied or approved by exempted organisations.

There can usually be found a few caravans here and there in the district belonging to gipsies, didicoys and scrap metal or marine dealers. These tend to station for a few days and then move on.

There are also unoccupied caravans standing in various places. These are owned by persons residing in the district and are used during the holiday season.

More than half the total number of caravans (388) are situated within the parish of Caddington. Its close proximity to Luton, Dunstable and Harpenden doubtless accounts for this preference. The caravans are fairly distributed within the parish and four miles in distance separates some of these sites which are at Skimpot, Pepperstock, Caddington, Aley Green and Woodside.

Totternhoe has 84 plus 30 at London Gliding Club, Whipsnade 153 (including 43 for holiday use) and Hockliffe 77.

The remaining 41 caravans covered by licence are mostly in the parishes of Studham and Kensworth.

With respect to caravan sites generally, the trends are in the direction of providing larger caravans even to the extent of what is now described as the "mobile home". From the Public Health aspect these larger and better equipped caravans are to be commended.

10. HOUSING ACT 1957

Repairs—Housing and Public Health Acts

Number of houses rendered fit by owner after informal action by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	42
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Beyond Repair

Closing Orders made (Section 17)	...	..	...	...	2
Demolition Orders made (Section 17)	...	...	...	...	15
Closing Orders determined (Section 27)	...	...	...	...	3
Closing Orders revoked and Demolition Orders substituted (Section 28)	...	...	...	...	1
Demolished following formal action	...	...	...	...	13
Demolished following informal action	...	...	...	...	14

Action taken during the year

Houses demolished by local authority or owners					
(a) unfit	...	...	...	...	23
(b) others	...	...	...	...	4
Number of people displaced					
(a) individual	...	...	...	...	25
(b) families	..	...	...	...	7

Progress report on houses found to be unfit for habitation and not repairable at a reasonable cost (1954-1965)

Demolished as a result of Formal Action	...	...	...	...	160
Demolished as a result of Informal Action	...	...	...	...	123
Subject to demolition orders reconstructed (Section 24)	...	...	...	...	13
Subject to demolition orders reconstruction approved but not completed (Section 24)	...	...	...	...	8
Subject to demolition orders but used for purposes other than for human habitation approved of	...	...	...	...	5
Subject to demolition orders but occupied	...	...	...	...	25
Subject to demolition orders (outstanding)	...	...	...	...	52
Formal undertakings to render fit	...	...	...	...	21
Informal undertakings to render fit	...	...	...	...	27
Formal undertakings not to use for human habitation	...	...	...	...	3
Informal undertakings not to use for human habitation	...	...	...	...	31
Closing Orders determined	...	...	...	...	9
Closing Orders outstanding	...	...	...	...	16
Acquired by the Council and rendered fit	...	...	...	...	4
Acquired by the Council (reconstruction scheme approved)	...	...	...	...	4
Unfit houses scheduled for treatment under Section 16, 17, etc.					
Housing Act 1957	...	...	...	...	138
				Total	639

Improvement Grants

With reference to tenanted houses, an informal approach is made to the owner by the Public Health Inspector with respect to rendering the house fit for human habitation and effecting such improvements as will qualify for a Standard or Discretionary Grant.

Where the response is positive the owner is put in touch with the Engineer and Surveyor's Department who deals with the matter thereafter. Plans and Specifications are referred to the Public Health Department.

During the execution of works, the Building Inspector carries out such inspections as are necessary to ensure that the Council's Building Byelaws are being complied with and the Public Health Inspector makes such inspections as are required with respect to repairs and other improvements.

58 Grants were made during the year, 26 of which were the direct result of the informal approach referred to above.

Improvement Areas—Housing Act 1964

No Statutory Action has been taken with respect to Improvement Areas. Prior to the Act coming into force a survey was in progress and informal approaches were being made to the owners of dwellings regarded as being suitable for improvement.

By the end of 1965, 218 houses had been dealt with accordingly.

No representations with respect to improvements have been made by tenants.

11. FOOD HYGIENE

The following is a list of food premises in the district:—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	5
Butchers	...	...	...	17
Catering Premises	...	...	...	21
Confectioners	...	...	...	20
Fishmongers	...	...	...	4
Grocers/General	...	...	...	66
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	70
Total				203

Regulation 16, which requires the provision of hand washing facilities, is complied with in all these premises. Regulation 19, requiring the provision of facilities for washing food and equipment applies to 182 of the premises and again is complied with in every case.

One difficulty has arisen, however, in enforcing Regulation 16 where it calls for the provision of clean towels. Except where automatic or paper towels are in use, it is very difficult to ensure that towels are in a clean condition at all times, and yet the use of ordinary hand and roller towels is permitted by this regulation.

Mobile Shops

The following is a list of Mobile Shops known to be operating in the district:—

Bakers	...	...	...	22
Butchers	...	...	...	6
Fishmongers	...	...	...	3
Grocers	...	...	...	5
Greengrocers	...	...	...	6
Ice-Cream	...	...	...	15
Snack Bars	...	...	...	1
				58

Ice-Cream

Eight premises were registered to store and sell ice-cream, bringing the total on the Register to 94.

Milk—Milk Sampling

Forty seven samples were obtained from several refrigerated milk dispensers installed in a large catering establishment. Twenty of these failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue Test. These poor results are probably due to failure of the personnel concerned to carry out the routine sterilizing procedure correctly. The difficulties encountered when transferring milk from 10 gallon churns to the dispenser may also have a bearing on the results. The Milk Marketing Board were asked to advise the owners on the proper methods of sterilizing this apparatus, but very little improvement in the results has been achieved.

It is hoped that the new method of selling milk, making use of 5 gallon disposable containers will eventually replace the milk dispensers used at present which have many disadvantages.

Bakehouses

One of the five small bakehouses still operating in the district was modernised and the oven converted from solid fuel to oil firing.

Catering Premises

The Motorway Service Area which includes six separate catering units is now fully operational.

Licensed Premises

Three of the seventy public houses were substantially improved, and one rebuilt during the year.

Unfit Food

During the year ten complaints were received from the public concerning unfit food, as follows:—

- Milk Bottle containing deposits of cement
- Mouldy chicken and ham pie
- Mouldy wrapped loaf
- Tin of Italian tomatoes containing insect
- Slight decomposition of a gammon
- Dirty milk bottle
- Mould growths in chocolate swiss roll
- Mould growths in Cornish Pasty
- Cotton in wrapped bread
- Mould growths in pork pie

In six of the above cases letters were sent to those responsible for the contraventions warning them that should they be involved in any similar incidents the Council would consider legal action.

The two complaints involving milk bottles were referred to the Local Authority in whose area the milk was bottled.

No further action was considered necessary in the remaining two cases.

12. MEAT INSPECTION IN SLAUGHTERHOUSES

		Bovine (other than calves)	Calves	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs	Goats	Total
Number killed	...	405	25	115	3,008	7	3,560
Number inspected	...	405	25	115	3,008	7	3,560
Percentage of number killed which were inspected	...	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

ALL DISEASES
EXCEPT T.B.

Whole carcasses condemned	1	4	—	33	—	38
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	45	2	12	291	—	350
Percentage of the number affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	11.35%	24%	10.44%	10.77%	—	10.89%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY	—	—	—	—	—	—

Cysticercus Bovis

Three cases were detected during the year. The affected organs were condemned and the carcasses detained under the approved cold storage conditions for a period of 2-3 weeks.

Particulars of meat found to be unfit for human consumption:—

	Meat (lbs)	Offal (lbs)
Bovine (other than Calves)	968	310½
Calves	300	12
Pigs	4	27
Sheep and Lambs	1,328	914
	<u>2,600</u>	<u>1,263½</u>
Tuberculosis	Nil	
Other Diseases	3,863½	
	<u>3,863½</u>	

13. RODENT CONTROL

The following is a summary of inspections, treatments, etc. carried out during the year:—

	RATS	MICE
Number of houses surveyed	800	21
" " treated	112	20
Number of business premises surveyed	58	4
" " treated	12	4
Number of Agricultural premises surveyed	16	—
" " treated	3	—
Number of sewers surveyed	14	—
" " treated	11	—
Number of sewage disposal works surveyed	82	—
" " treated	8	—
Number of refuse tips surveyed	3	—
" " treated	—	—
Other places surveyed	1	—
" " treated	1	—

Rodent Control Report for 12 months ended 31st December 1965

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Non-Agricultural Dwelling Houses	(3) All Others (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Col (1) (2) and (3)	(5) Agricultural
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District ...	37	9,678	1,668	11,383	416

II. Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification	5	125	22	152	8
Number of such properties found to be infested by:—					
Common Rat —Major ...	—	4	3	7	3
—Minor ...	3	106	12	121	4
House Mouse —Minor ...	2	15	7	24	1
III. Total number of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act	99	821	63	983	16
Number of such properties found to be infested by:—					
Common Rat —Major ...	—	2	1	3	1
—Minor ...	19	110	12	141	2
House Mouse —Minor ...	—	20	4	24	—
IV. Total number of properties otherwise inspected (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	2	27	3	32	1
Number of such properties found to be infested by:—					
Common Rat —Minor ...	1	22	2	25	1
House Mouse —Minor ...	1	5	1	7	—
V. Any other points of interest					
	(i)	The Rodent Operative was ill for a period of 10 weeks during the year, thus reducing the amount of survey work.			
	(ii)	Agricultural Infestations appeared to be increasing in number and size due largely to infestation of hedgerows and ditches. Changing methods probably account for this.			

14. FACTORIES ACT 1961

1. INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health:—					Occupiers
Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices		Prosecutions
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	1	—	—		—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	55	21	2		—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	2	4	1		—
TOTAL	58	25	3		—
2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:—					
Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	1	—
TOTAL	3	4	—	1	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work

	Number of outworkers in August List required by Section 133
Wearing Apparel—making, etc.	98
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	1
Xmas Stockings, etc.	6
Lampshades	2
	107

There were no instances of work being carried out on unwholesome premises and no cases of default in sending lists to the Council.

15. PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 AND 1936

Six new licences were granted during the year, bringing the total number issued to seventy-seven.

One hundred and forty-one inspections were made in connection with the enforcement of the licensing conditions.

16. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

By the end of 1965 seventy-seven of the one hundred and twenty-one premises registered under the provisions of the Act had received a general inspection.

These inspections have been concentrated on the larger establishments and those which have not previously been inspected by the department in connection with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

Prosecutions

It was not found necessary to institute proceedings in respect of any offences at registered premises.

Exemptions

No applications were made during the year for exemption under the provisions of Sections 5, 6 and 9 of the Act.

Abstract of the Act

A copy of the Abstract of the Act has been provided for each registered premises by the Council.

First Aid Equipment

During inspections of premises it was often noted that when items from the First Aid Boxes were used they were not replaced. This was mainly due to the person in charge of the box not being aware of the scales of contents set out in the First Aid order.

A leaflet giving full details of contents for the various types of boxes has been distributed to all the registered premises with a request that it be kept in the first aid box for reference purposes.

Statistics

Registration of Premises

Six new premises were registered under the provisions of the Act during the year.

Premises

On the 31st December 1965, one hundred and twenty-one premises were registered, a total which, despite the six new registrations mentioned above, is twelve less than the number registered in 1964. This is due to the discovery, when some of the premises were visited, that persons were not in fact employed there or that the premises were factories, in which case the registrations were referred to H.M. Factory Inspector.

Classification of Registered Premises

Offices	...	...	...	27
Retail Shops	...	...	...	72
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	22
				121

Analysis of persons employed by workplace

Offices	...	...	...	176	
Retail Shops	...	...	...	281	
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	603	
Canteens	...	...	...	4	
				1,064	(350 males, 714 females)

Inspections

One hundred and sixty-nine visits were made to registered premises, this total includes seventy-seven general inspections.

Contraventions

A summary of contraventions found are set out below:—

Section 6	Temperature	...	...	...	...	46
	(includes 36 cases where thermometer not provided)					
7	Ventilation	...	...	...	...	1
8	Lighting	...	...	...	...	3
9	Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	11
10	Washing Facilities	...	...	...	...	10
12	Clothing Accommodation	...	...	...	...	2
13	Seating Facilities	...	...	...	...	6
16	Floors, Passages, Stairs	...	...	...	...	20
17	Fencing Exposed parts of machinery	...	...	...	...	16
24	First Aid provisions	...	...	...	...	39
						154

The discovery of these contraventions led to a total of fifty-seven letters being sent to the owners of the businesses concerned, the majority of whom have already taken steps to ensure that the unsatisfactory conditions found on their premises are put right.

Accidents

Number of Accidents notified	Males	6
	Females	16
		22
Number of days lost		259
Average number of days lost per accident		11.7

Classification of Causes

Falls of persons	10
Involving cooking appliances	2
Falling objects	4
Other causes	6

A total of eighteen accidents were investigated. Informal advice was given to the owners of the premises concerned on seventeen occasions. The circumstances of the other five accidents were such that no action was considered necessary.

All the accidents notified occurred at one or other of the two large establishments employing between them about half the number of persons at premises in the district covered by the Act.

Lighting (Section 8)

In response to Supplement 1 of Circular 9, issued by the Ministry of Labour, sixteen shops and one office were inspected during the month of November 1965 and the following details ascertained:—

General Impressions

The standard of lighting in the selling areas of shops, with one or two exceptions, was found to be satisfactory. The shopkeeper, however, does not seem to be quite so anxious to provide the same amount of light for the rest of the shop and in many cases the light meter readings for stores, stairs, etc. were low.

The layout of most small shops with the window crammed full of goods results in very little natural light being available in the selling and working areas. Even on the brightest days full use is often made of artificial lighting.

The public areas of bars in the better type of public house are often poorly lit. The owners argue that the “atmosphere” would be destroyed if the lighting were improved. This does mean, however, that the working area behind the bar is also poorly lit.

Specific Standards Recommended

No specific standards have been recommended although lighting has been improved in three cases by the installation of additional light fittings.

Glare

Excessive glare was not noticed during the inspection of these premises.

Lighting Standards—Offices

Only one office was inspected during November and in this case 10 lumens were recorded on several desks.

Lighting Standards—Shops

Sixteen shops were inspected and set out below are the light meter readings:—

Selling Areas Lumens	Store Room etc. Lumens	Selling Area Lumens	Store Room Lumens
4	2	20	10
8	4	20	4

10	2	20	5
10	3	20	6
10	10	30	10
14	2	30	1
15	2	45	25
16	6	75	5

17. OTHER MATTERS DEALT WITH BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR

Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

Nine such Establishments were licensed during the year. The premises were inspected in order to ensure that the conditions attached to licences were complied with.

The R.S.P.C.A. Inspector, Mr. Goodenough, proved to be extremely helpful with advice on the welfare of dogs and cats, to which the Act relates.

Infectious Diseases

All cases reported by the Medical Officer of Health were investigated with a view to tracing the source of infection. These included a case of Salmonella Typhimurium, and cases of Scarlet Fever, Sonnei Dysentery and suspected food poisoning.

Welfare

National Assistance Act 1948—Section 48—Care of Elderly Persons

During the year reports with respect to four elderly and two younger persons were submitted to the Public Health Committee. One of the elderly persons agreed to accept residential accommodation provided by the County Council and one of the younger ones was persuaded to enter Fairfields Hospital for a time.

In no case was it necessary to take statutory action in order to effect removal.

National Assistance Act 1948—Section 50—Burial of the Dead

One person was found dead in the area and buried when it appeared that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body had been made.

Public Health Act 1936—Sections 83, 84 and 85

Statutory Action was resorted to with a view to effecting the cleansing of a verminous person and her clothing, the premises occupied by her and the articles of furniture etc. contained therein.

Other Duties

These include the sampling of swimming pools water, which are increasing in number throughout the district, particularly at schools. Towards the end of the year the County Education Department took over the sampling of water in swimming pools under their control.

Reports on Ruinous and dilapidated structures under the Public Health Act 1961; The Pet Animals Act 1951; The Licensing Act 1961 and the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964.

18. PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT—STAFF

I wish to place on record my appreciation of the loyalty of my Staff and the efficient manner in which they have carried out their duties during the year:—

Mr. T. C. Oliver—Additional Public Health Inspector

During the year Mr. Oliver commenced studies with a view to obtaining the Smoke Inspectors Certificate of the Royal Society of Health.

Mr. Alan Turvey—Student Public Health Inspector

Mr. Turvey has attended the second year of the approved course for the Public Health Inspectors Diploma at the Hertfordshire College of Building, St. Albans.

Mrs. E. Ostapczuk (nee Miss E. Joyce)—Clerk/Shorthand Typist.

Mrs. I. C. Coppard—Clerk/Shorthand Typist (part-time).

Mr. E. Todd—Assistant Rodent Officer.

During the year Mr. Todd completed 38 years of service with the Council, eight of which have been on Rodent Control.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

L. G. HILL
Chief Public Health Inspector.



22/68

